[Translation]

Foreign Capital Investment

4482. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total capital invested by the N.R.Is in the country and its value in foreign exchange and in Indian currency, separately;

(b) whether N.R.Is are not interested in investing their capital in India;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to make N.R.Is to invest more in India?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Since the announcement of New Industrial Policy in July 1991, till 31.5.96, proposals involving Non-Resident Indian (NRI) investment approved by Government in foreign currency is equivalent to Rs. 20868.80 crores.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. NRI investment is increasing steadily, ever since the announcement of New Industrial Policy.

(d) Government has taken a number of steps to boost NRI investment. In certain selected sectors, 100% NRI equity is permissible with full repatriation benefits.

Consideration of Block Instead of District for Backwardness

4483. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal to Union Government regarding considering block instead of district as backward;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to take decision on the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Industry Ministry have not received any such proposal.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Sick Tea Gardens

4484. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tea gardens in the country alongwith the details thereof;

(b) whether several tea gardens are in the state of sickness;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make them viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) There are 13,936 gardens registered with the Tea Board. Statement indicating State-wise details of these tea gardens is enclosed.

(b) to (d). As per the survey carried out by Tea Board. State-wise details of these tea gardens are as follows:-

State	No. of week tea gardens	No. of closed tea gardens
Assam	47	5
West Bengal	41	4
Tripura	14	-
Kerala	8	1
Tamilnadu	4	-
Total	114	10

The problems faced by sick and weak tea gardens are quite complex arising out of the diverse causes such as managerial/financial mismanagement, protracted litigation etc. These have been discussed with the commercial banks under the aegis of Tea Board to facilitate funding and related measures. The incidence of sickness/weakness of tea gardens has decreased owing to improved economic conditions and stability in tea prices.

STATEMENT

State-wise Details of the tea gardens registered with Tea Board

State	Number of tea gardens registered with Tea Board
Assam	850
West Bengal	347